

## CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for receiving data from a telecommunication service provider, comprising the steps of:

specifying validation rules for analysing data items in a first format;

specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of changing the validation rules and the population rules in accord with changes to the first format.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the validation and population rules are changed through a user interface.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein there are a plurality of first formats, each first format having validation and population rules relating to a single second format.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein each first format is determined by a service provider.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the first and second formats are first and second record structures respectively and each data item corresponds to a field in each record structure.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein a validation rule checks that a data item corresponding to a field of the first record structure is compatible with a data type of the field of the first record structure.

8. A system for receiving data from a telecommunication service provider comprising:

means for specifying validation rules for analyzing data items in a first format;

means for specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

means for receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

means for analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

means for converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

9. The system according to claim 8 further including a user interface for changing the validation rules and the population rules in accord with changes to the first format.

10. The system according to claim 9 wherein a plurality of first formats are defined, each first format having validation and population rules relating to a single second format.

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11. The system according to claim 10 wherein each first format is determined by a service provider.

10 12. The system according to claim 11 wherein the first and second formats are first and second record structures respectively and each data item corresponds to a field in each record structure.

15 13. The system according to claim 12 wherein a validation rule checks that a data item corresponding to a field of the first record structure is compatible with a data type of the field of the first record structure.

20 14. A computer readable medium containing code for implementing a system which receives data from a telecommunication service provider, wherein the system is for:

specifying validation rules for analyzing data items in a first format;

25 specifying population rules for converting the data items to a second format;

receiving a set of data items in the first format from the service provider;

analyzing the set of data items according to the validation rules; and

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converting the data items into the second format according to the population rules.

15. The computer readable medium according to claim 14 including further instructions for enabling a user to change the validation rules and the population rules in accord with changes to the first format.

16. The computer readable medium according to claim 15 wherein the validation and population rules are changed through a user interface of the system.

17. The computer readable medium according to claim 16 wherein a plurality of first formats related to service providers can be defined, each first format having validation and population rules relating to a single second format.

18. The computer readable medium according to claim 17 wherein each first format is determined by a service provider.

19. The computer readable medium according to claim 18 wherein the first and second formats are first and second record structures respectively and each data item corresponds to a field in each record structure.

20. The computer readable medium according to claim 19 wherein a validation rule checks that a data item corresponding to a field of the first record structure is compatible with a data type of the field of the first record structure.